

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROPOSED RULES GOVERNING A
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR CONSISTENCY AND RIGOR IN COURSE WORK

1.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- 1.01 These rules shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education's Rules for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work.
- 1.02 These rules are enacted pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-15-1402 and 6-15-1502.

2.00 PURPOSE

- 2.01 The purpose is to ensure that every public school student has the opportunity to learn rigorous and challenging course work aligned with Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks in all subject areas by eliminating low level, general education tracts, K-12.

3.00 DEFINITION

- 3.01 "Cycle Two Submission" is the document submitted yearly beginning October 1, by the superintendent of schools, to determine the accreditation status of each Arkansas public school.
- 3.02 "ADE" is the Arkansas Department of Education.

4.00 ASSURING CONSISTENCY AND RIGOR IN COURSE WORK

- 4.01 The superintendent in each school district shall provide to the ADE by October 1, 2002, and each year thereafter on that date, a written statement of assurance that the content of each academic subject area course, including courses taught to special education, limited English proficient, and alternative learning students, in grades ~~nine~~ kindergarten through twelve (~~9~~K-12) and classroom instruction in each course is aligned in content and rigor to the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks.
- 4.02 This assurance statement, signed by the district superintendent, shall accompany the Cycle Two Submission.
- 4.03 Failure to file this assurance statement with the Cycle Two Submission shall result in noncompliance with the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools.

- 4.04 The ADE shall monitor compliance with the requirements of this act during the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public School review visit and during the school improvement planning process.
- 4.05 All local school boards shall adopt and implement the academic standards and outcomes mandated by the State Board of Education in prekindergarten through grade 12. Failure to align the academic subject area content of any academic course in grades nine through twelve to the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks use these curriculum frameworks to plan instruction leading to student demonstration of the Arkansas content standards shall result in accredited-probationary status with the *Standards for Accreditation* and a noncompliance notation on the school's performance report under Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-1402.
- 4.06 ~~All public school districts shall align the content and instruction of each academic subject matter area in grades kindergarten through eight (K-8) in content and rigor to the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks.~~ Any course for which no Framework exists and/or any course outside of the required courses specified in the *Standards for Accreditation* for grades nine through twelve (9-12) must be approved through the Department of Education course approval process before being offered for credit by a school district under Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-1502.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FILING PROPOSED RULES WITH
THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT/AGENCY Arkansas Department of Education
DIVISION Accountability
DIVISION DIRECTOR Dr. Charity Smith
CONTACT PERSON Dr. Gayle Potter
ADDRESS 4 Capitol Mall, Room 105-A, Little Rock, AR 72201
PHONE NO. (501) 682-4558 FAX NO. (501) 682-4886 E-MAIL gpotter@arkedu.k12.ar.us

INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Please make copies of this form for future use.
- B. Please answer each question completely using layman terms. You may use additional sheets, if necessary.
- C. If you have a method of indexing your rules, please give the proposed citation after "Short Title of this Rule" below.
- D. Submit two (2) copies of this questionnaire & financial impact statement attached to the front of two (2) copies of your proposed rule and required documents. Mail or deliver to:

Donna K. Davis
Subcommittee on Administrative Rules and Regulations
Arkansas Legislative Council
Bureau of Legislative Research
Room 315, State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

- 1. What is the short title of this rule? Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work.
- 2. What is the subject of the proposed rule? Requires the Department of Education to develop a comprehensive plan for consistency and rigor in course work offered by local school districts.
- 3. Is this rule required to comply with federal statute or regulations? Yes_____ No___X___
If yes, please provide the federal regulation and/or statute citation.
- 4. Was this rule filed under the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act?
Yes_____ No___X___

If yes, what is the effective date of the emergency rule?

When does the emergency rule expire?

Will this emergency rule be promulgated under the permanent provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act? N/A Yes_____ No_____

5. Is this a new rule? Yes _____ No X _____ If yes, please provide a brief summary explaining the regulation.

Does this repeal an existing rule? Yes _____ No X _____ If yes, a copy of the repealed rule is to be included with your completed questionnaire. If it is being replaced with a new rule, please provide a summary of the rule giving an explanation of what the rule does.

Is this an amendment to an existing rule? Yes X No _____ If yes, please attach a markup showing the changes in the existing rule and a summary of the substantive changes. **NOTE: The summary should explain what the amendment does, and the mark-up copy should be clearly labeled "mark-up."**

6. Cite the state law grants the authority for this proposed rule. If codified, please give Arkansas Code citation. Ark. Code Ann. 6-11-105, Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-1402, and Ark. Code Ann. 6-15-1502.
7. What is the purpose of this proposed rule? Why is it necessary? To ensure that every public school student has the opportunity to learn rigorous and challenging course work aligned with Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks in all subject areas by eliminating low level, general education tracts, K-12. It is necessary to assure that there is consistency and rigor in course work.
8. Will a public hearing be held on this proposed rule? Yes X No _____
If yes, please complete the following:
- Date: March 9, 2004
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: Arkansas Department of Education, 4 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR,
9. When does the public comment period expire for permanent promulgation? (Must provide a date.) March 4, 2004
10. What is the proposed effective date of this proposed rule? (Must provide a date.) May 30, 2004
11. Do you expect this rule to be controversial? Yes _____ No X _____
If yes, please explain.
12. Please give the names of persons, groups, or organizations that you expect to comment on these rules. Please provide their position (for or against) if known. N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT Arkansas Department of Education
DIVISION Accountability
PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT Dr. Gayle Potter
TELEPHONE NO. (501) 682-4558 FAX NO (501) 682-4886 EMAIL gpotter @arkedu.k12.ar.us

To comply with Act 1104 of 1995, please complete the following Financial Impact Statement and file two copies with the questionnaire and proposed rules.

SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE

Comprehensive Plan For Consistency and Rigor in Course Work

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact? Yes _____ No X
2. If you believe that the development of a financial impact statement is so speculative as to be cost prohibited, please explain. N/A
3. If the purpose of this rule or regulation is to implement a federal rule or regulation, please give the incremental cost for implementing the regulation. Please indicate if the cost provided is the cost of the program.

Current Fiscal Year - N/A

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other (Identify) _____
Total _____

Next Fiscal Year - N/A

General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____
Special Revenue _____
Other (Identify) _____
Total _____

4. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any party subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation? Identify the party subject to the proposed regulation and explain how they are affected. **N/A**

Current Fiscal Year

\$ _____

Next Fiscal Year

\$ _____

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to the agency to implement this regulation? N/A

Current Fiscal Year

\$ _____

Next Fiscal Year

\$ _____

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT OF PROPOSED REGULATION
(In compliance with Acts 884 and 1253 of 1995)

Regulation Title: Comprehensive Plan for Consistency and Rigor in Course Work

Summary Description of Regulatory Proposal: To ensure that every public school student has the opportunity to learn rigorous and challenging course work aligned with Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks in all subject areas by eliminating low level, general education tracts, K-12.

Cite Statutory Authority for this Regulatory Proposal: Act 1116 of 2003

- I. Fiscal Impact on the Department: (include whether impacts are non-recurring or recurring)
 - A. Resources Required - Personnel, equipment, office space.
No additional resources required.
 - B. Time Required for Implementation. N/A
 - C. Procedural Changes. N/A
 - D. Other.
- II. Fiscal Impact on Local School District or Others? (Include whether impacts are non-recurring or recurring)
 - A. Resources Required - Personnel, equipment, office space.
No additional resources required.
 - B. Time Required for Implementation. October 1, 2002
 - C. Procedural Changes. N/A
 - D. Other.
- III. Additional Comments.

Prepared by: (Name) Dr. Gayle Potter
(Title) Associate Director, Academic Standards and Assessment
(Date) February 5, 2004